

# EASTERN IOWA

## DX'ER

SPRING 1993



### SPRING MEETING INFO

DATE: APRIL 16, 1993

WHEN: 7:30 pm CDT  
(brag session @ 7:00)

WHERE: MUSCATINE COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

LARSON HALL  
(see map)

PROGRAM: NORTH CALIFORNIA  
DX FOUNDATION FILM

TALK-IN : 146.91

1993 EIDXAs OFFICERS  
President: KEØY, Tom Kramer  
V.P.: KØAL, Al Culbert  
Sec'y/Treas: WAØFYG,  
Rick Hadley

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
KØAL, Al Culbert

REPEATER COMMITTEE:  
KØVM, Al Groff  
WØMJN, Joe Finkstein

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
WØSR, Jim Spencer  
WØIZ, Dale Repp

CLUSTER SYSOP:  
WB8ZRL, Tom Vavra

EIDXAs REPEATER  
145.190 Mhz, WØMJN

DX CLUSTER:  
144.910 Mhz, WB8ZRL

NET:  
SUNDAY EVE @ 9:30 pm LOCAL  
EIDXAs REPEATER

### HAMFEST CALENDAR

MAY 2, 1993

DeKalb Hamfest @ Sandwich, IL  
Sandwich Fair Grounds  
Talk-in 146.13/.73  
NO VE EXAMS !!

MAY 15, 1993

Central Iowa @ Marshalltown  
Marshalltown Comm. College  
Talk-in 146.28/.88  
VE Exams @ 10 AM

JUNE 6, 1993

Starved Rock Hamfest  
Bureau County Fair Grounds  
Princeton, IL  
Talk-in 146.355/.955

AUGUST 15, 1993

CVARC Hamfest  
Teamster's Union Hall  
Cedar Rapids, IA

SEPT 5, 1993

Burlington Hamfest  
Natn'l Guard Armory  
Burlington, IA

SEPT 18

Peoria Superfest  
Peoria, IL

OCT 3, 1993

S.E. Iowa Hamfest  
West Liberty, IA

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EIDXA,

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I ENDURED A HEART ATTACK ON FEB. 6. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. I RECEIVED MANY CARDS AND GOOD WISHES FROM EIDXA ERS. IT WAS REALLY NICE TO HAVE THE CARDS TO READ AND SHARE WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL. I HAVE BECOME A BELIEVER IN THE POWER OF THE GET WELL CARD AND DO HEREBY RESOLVE TO BECOME A BETTER CARD SENDER.

BRIEFLY, I AM ON THE MEND. THE ATTACK SERVED AS A GOOD, SWIFT SLAP ON THE WRIST AND A WARNING TO GET MY ACT TOGETHER. WE HAVE DONE A LOT OF DIET CHANGES AT OUR HOUSE, PLUS I HAVE LEARNED TO EXERCISE SMART. I THINK I WILL BE BACK TO WORK SOON (MIXED BLESSING).

I THOUGHT I WOULD ALSO WRITE AT THIS SAME TIME ABOUT LIFE AFTER YOU HAVE WORKED THEM ALL (OR NEARLY SO). WITH THE SUNSPOTS ON THE WAY DOWN, ITS A GOOD TIME TO WORK ON 5 BAND DXCC - THE LOW BAND PORTION. I DID THAT LAST CYCLE AND AFTER THAT, I GAVE IT A MORE PERSONAL TWIST. I DECIDED TO WORK 5 BAND DXCC WITH ALL THE SAME 100 COUNTRIES. THAT IS, I WORKED, FOR EXAMPLE, ZD7-ST. HELENA 10-80 METERS AND SO ON TILL I WORKED 100 COUNTRIES. I CONFIRMED THEM ALL, BUT SUIT YOURSELF.

ABOUT THIS TIME, I ACQUIRED A GOOD LOGGING PROGRAM, DX-BASE, AND SET ABOUT TO ORGANIZE MY CARDS AND BUILD A DATABASE OF WHAT I HAVE WORKED AND WHAT IS CONFIRMED. ITS NOT AS BAD A JOB AS IT SOUNDS. WITH THAT DONE, I WAS ABLE TO SEE WHERE I COULD CREATE SOME PERSONAL CHALLENGES. I DECIDED TO LOOK AT BANDS AND MODES WHERE I WAS UNDER 100. IT GOT ME TO LOOK IN PLACES I HAD NOT DONE MUCH LOOKING BEFORE. 10 METER CW IS THE BEST CASE IN POINT. YOU SEE, IT BECOMES THE INVESTMENT IN THE PERSONAL CHALLENGE THAT MAKES IT WORK OR NOT WORK.

THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO WORK ON AS WELL THAT ARE LESS CONVENTIONAL. IOTA, WARC DXCC'S, DIGITAL MODES. FOREIGN CERTIFICATES (THE OLD USSR R-100 WAS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE).

WHAT I AM GETTING AT IS THIS. WE ARE ALL AGING AND THE NEW ONES ARE CROPPING UP AND WE ARE GETTING THEM ALL WORKED, WITH SURPRISING REGULARITY. I FEAR SOME OF MY MANY FRIENDS MAY FADE OUT WITH THE SUN SPOTS AS THE CURRENT CHALLENGES ARE MET. PLEASE, FRIENDS, BEFORE YOU DO THIS, EXPLORE THE OPTIONS PRESENTED HERE OR CREATE YOUR OWN ORIGINAL CHALLENGES. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, MAYBE I CAN TAG ALONG.

AGAIN, THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT AND KIND THOUGHTS 73

*Tom KØV2R*

## THE PREZ SEZ

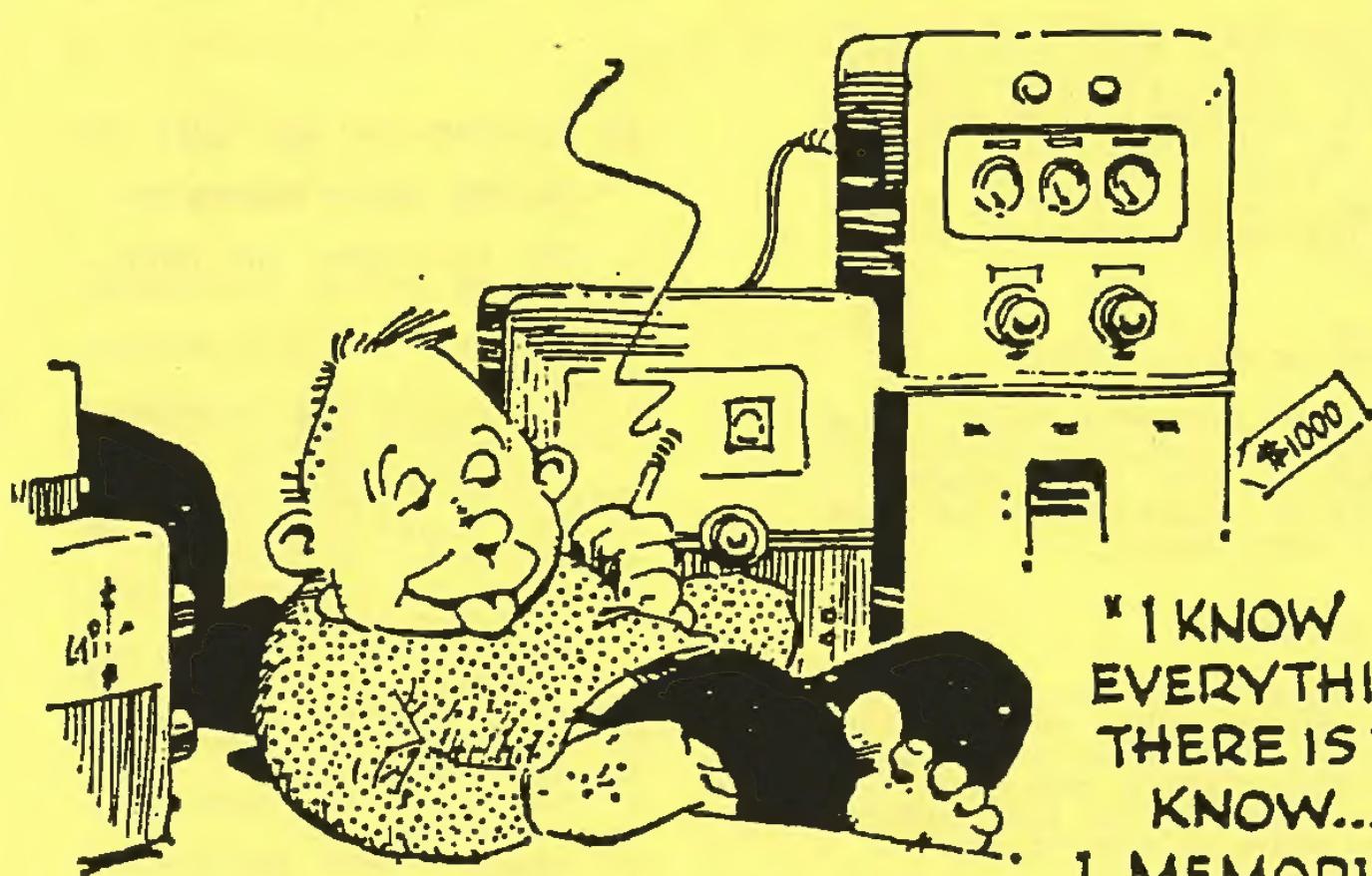
The Howland Island DXpedition certainly got the 1993 DX season off to a great start. Following that with the Kingman/Palmyra effort and now the Ghana pile ups shows that there is a lot of life left in sunspot cycle 22. I was just glancing through the Winter 1989 copy of the EIDX'er at an article about cycle 22 and noticed how true the forecast dated 7/20/87 seemed to be holding true.

Which brings me to another topic. When was the first EIDX'A newsletter printed? I have all mine since the Autumn '84 issue. Who can produce the oldest copy? I'm not suggesting we live in the past, but I find it interesting to look back and see who and what the club was all about "way back then". If we can gather together as many issues as possible prior to Autumn '84 I would like to make copies to put in a binder and add to the club archives.

I also have a pretty complete set of minutes starting with the 10/6/75 meeting which saw birth of the EIDX'A. They likewise make for interesting reading. I will have these at the Spring '93 meeting or talk with WØ's - SR, SML, MJN, WP and others.

Congratulations to the NØSM mult-op crew for a fine 8th place national ranking in the ARRL 160m contest from the looks of the score they had quite a battle with the NCØP group. Another call I saw listed was KØSRL from Davenport. Perhaps our Quad City members will introduce him to the pleasure of joining the EIDX'A.

That's about it from the Port City. Hope to see as many of you that can make the trip to Muscatine. 73 TLK



# CONTEST ALERT

## APRIL 14 COMBINED SPRINT & CHESS CONTEST

Same basic format as Sprint, but stations must work other stations enough times to complete a chess game. On initial contact with a stations, exchange first moves (station calling CQ plays White), then sprint at least 5 kHz and begin game with second station, etc. Continue games by finding the stations again one at a time and exchanging one move. Score is number of games played multiplied by number of wins. Draws count half points. No Boards permitted. CW only. Brillancy prizes.

## APRIL 21 OLDE PHARTES CONTESTE

Exchange latest prescription number, days since last doctor visit and full description of current medical symptoms. Each exchange must last at least one hour. 75 meters only, use of call sign optional. Contestants must remain alive for duration of this 24-hour contest.

## APRIL 28 MODIFIED CQ WW DX CONTEST

No contacts allowed with JA, YU or UA stations. Special certificates for stations with total number of contacts in double figures in spite of this limitation.

## MAY 5 10-10 CONTEST

Like regular 10-10 contest, except that operator giving their numbers in "dollars and cents" are disqualified from future contests. The contest is therefore not expected to take place in following years.

## EIDX A QSL CARDS

There has been an inquiry about having another run of EIDX A QSL cards printed. Glen, K6JGH passes on the following information.

The print shop in Ottumwa will produce them again for us at \$38 / 1,000 cards plus shipping with the minimum order being 4 people each ordering 1,000 cards. This is the two color design with the EIDX A logo. Price breaks occur after 4 people each order 2,000 cards. To order, forward to K6JGH a sample QSL card WITH updates and your check. We presently have two members needing cards K6AL and K6VZR, anybody else???

Please indicate your desire so those needing cards can find an alternate source if there is insufficient interest.

## 10 REASONS YOU ARE SURE TO LIKE THE DAYTON HAMVENTION

1. The delicious and nutritious food sold by the on-site vendors.
2. The clean rest room facilities.
3. The broad and uncrowded aisles in HARA Arena.
4. The reasonable rates charged by the motels.
5. The courteous Illinois Highway Patrol Officers.
6. The ample and convenient auto parking facilities.
7. The 10 hour ride to and from Dayton over our nation's finest Interstate highways.
8. The always sunny skies over the flea market area.
9. The reasonable prices asked by the vendors.
10. Going to work the following Monday.

above de WD6AWL

## DXCC Field Checking

The DXCC desk recently changed the ARRL DXCC Countries List and in doing so changed the countries that may be field checked. Below are the countries that may NOT be checked in the field. If you include any of the following in your application, the field checkers will be forced to cross it off of your application form.

|                 |                       |                      |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1AO             | FO (Clipperton)       | UG                   |
| 1S              | FR (Glorioso)         | UH                   |
| 3B6             | FR (Juan de Nova)     | UI                   |
| 3C0             | FR (Tromelin)         | UJ                   |
| 3V              | HI                    | UL                   |
| 3W              | KH1                   | UM                   |
| 3X              | KH5                   | UO                   |
| 3Y (Bouvet)     | KH5K                  | VKO (Heard)          |
| 3Y (Peter I)    | KP1                   | VP8 (South Shetland) |
| 4J1             | KP5                   | XF4                  |
| 4N4             | PYØ (St Peter & Paul) | XU                   |
| 5A              | SØ                    | XW                   |
| 5R              | S2                    | XZ                   |
| 5U              | S5                    | YA                   |
| 5X              | SV/a                  | YI                   |
| 7O              | T5                    | YK                   |
| 9A              | TN                    | YVØ                  |
| 9G              | TT                    | ZA                   |
| 9U              | UA (European Russia)  | ZK1 (North Cook)     |
| A5              | UA (Asiatic Russia)   | ZK3                  |
| C9              | UA2                   | ZL8                  |
| CEØ (San Felix) | UB                    | ZL9                  |
| D2              | UC                    | ZSO (Penguin)        |
| EP              | UD                    | ZS9 (Walvis Bay)     |
| ET              |                       | UF                   |

At this time, only first ever DXCC applications may be checked in the field. The ARRL will likely expand that to any new DXCC application later this year. Your field checkers currently are KØVZR, NYØV, WØEJ, WØIZ, WØSR, and WB8ZRL.

### VP8 SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

The famous explorer Captain James Cook, in 1775, when describing Cook Island in the South Sandwich Islands, is reported to have said "This is the most awful place in the world". A little more than two centuries later, during one of the Argentine occupations of the islands, Carlos Alberto Pereyra, chief of Argentina's Corbeta Uruguay scientific station on Thule Island and the last operator of LU3ZY, probably the last amateur radio operator to be active from the South Sandwich Islands, told WA2VUY that the winds were in excess of 100 Miles per hour and that there was a period when their antennas were down for months.

"Sailing Directions" note that "Vessels should exercise caution in the approaches to these harbors...., the islands are completely surrounded by pack-ice.... during the late winter and spring..., the general weather patterns in the group are cloudy with fog or snow, and clear cloudless days are rare... and mountain summits are almost always hidden by low clouds".

## SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS CONTINUED

The South Sandwich Islands are a group of eleven islands and rocks located in the Scotia Sea near Antarctica and about 450 miles southeast of South Georgia Island (lying between latitudes  $58^{\circ}18' S$  and  $50^{\circ}28' S$  and between longitudes  $26^{\circ}14' W$  and  $28^{\circ}11' W$ ). They are administered by Great Britain as a dependency of the Falkland Islands. M.W. Holdgate of the Scott Polar Research Institute explains that...ten of the islands form a curved chain of islands stretching for 190 miles north and south while the eleventh, Leskov Islands, lies to the west of the group at its northern end. The group is the only typical volcanic arc in the Antarctic region.... Several of the islands exhibit volcanic activity.

Mr. Holdgate also noted, that prior to 1962, even though the islands had numerous visitors - whalers, sealers, and patrolling warships - little was known about the scientific aspects of the islands. Before the use of the helicopter very few landings were attempted because of the almost constant swell.

The islands are barren and ice-covered, with extensive vegetation only found near areas of volcanic activity. Animal life consists mainly of birds, penguins (Chinstrap, Macaroni, Adelie and Gentoo) and some fur seals. The islands in the southern portion of the group appear to have more severe weather.

The South Sandwich Islands group is comprised of two island subgroups: in the north and central areas, the Traverse or Traversay Islands consist of Zavadovski Island (the reported location of the pirate (?) operation of 4K1ZI), Leskov Island, Visokoi Island, the Candlemas Islands (Vindication and Candlemas), Saunders Island, Montagu Island and Bristol Island. In the south the Southern Thule Islands contains three islands: Thule, Cook and Bellingshausen. Thule is important to us, because it was the location of the VP8SSI DXpedition in March, 1992.

Thule Island or Morrell as it is called by Argentina, is located at  $59^{\circ}27' S$ ,  $27^{\circ}23' W$ , is, according to "Sailing Directions" mentioned before, buried beneath an ice cap, but provides the best anchorage in the South Sandwich Islands.... Thule Island is considered to be an active volcano, but it obviously provides more than the best anchorage, because it was the site of two Argentine expeditions, the last of which was ended by British troops during the Falkland Islands War. The island is essentially barren; vegetation covers only about 5 per cent of the island's surface.

The Argentine base camp on Thule is located at Ferguson Bay on a peninsula which is about 1200 meters long by 600 meters wide. One source describes Thule Island as being crescent shaped while the Russian Map series shows otherwise. The central peak of the island rises to a plateau at an elevation of about 2700 feet.

The southern Islands were first sighted by Captain Cook in 1775. Russian explorer Fabian Gottlieb Benjamin von Bellingshausen discovered the northern group of islands circa 1819. Bellingshausen proved that the islands were truly islands, a fact that Cook had thought, but not proven. The British government formally annexed the islands in 1908 and 1917. The island remained uninhabited for 200 years after being discovered. the only permanent habitation on the islands has been maintained by Argentina, despite protests from Great Britain.

EIDX A ROSTER

| CALL   | NAME             | ADDRESS                 | CITY            | ZIP       |
|--------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| KUØA   | Nelson MOYER     | 28 Ealing Drive         | Iowa City       | IA 52246  |
| KQAL   | Al CULBERT       | 328 Norman Drive NE     | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| WDØAWL | Terry CELLMAN    | 703 Lincoln Street      | Ainsworth       | IA 52201  |
| WBØB   | Larry J. NEWBY   | P.O. Box 185            | West Burlington | IA 52655  |
| KZØC   | Jim BOHNSACK     | 1169 Rainbow Drive      | Waterloo        | IA 50701  |
| AAØCS  | Jeff BARKER      | P.O. Box 325            | Toledo          | IA 52342  |
| KAØWCR | Mary DENNIS      | 400 East Vine           | Toledo          | IA 52342  |
| WVØD   | Terry PERKINS    | 3119 Falson Drive NE    | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| NØDGE  | Tom IRWIN        | 1023 Kirkwood Ave.      | Iowa City       | IA 52240  |
| WØEJ   | Wade WALSTROM    | 7431 Macon Drive NE     | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| NOEL   | Joe RATKIEWICZ   | 2622 Avalon Drive       | Bettendorf      | IA 52722  |
| WAØFYG | Rick HADLEY      | 115 Scenic Drive        | Vinton          | IA 52349  |
| KØGT   | Gary TOOMSEN     | 2730 Tower Drive        | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52401  |
| KØGVB  | Gary ERNST       | RR #2                   | West Branch     | IA 52358  |
| WØGWK  | Frank APPLE      | 1935 16th Street        | Marion          | IA 52302  |
| KFØH   | Jim HARVEY       | 819 N. Main Street      | Goldfield       | IA 50542  |
| NBØH   | Jack MUCKLER     | 2084 Eastern Blvd. SE   | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52403  |
| WKØI   | Terry PARKER     | 535 Sierra Drive        | Burlington      | IA 52601  |
| NCØICI | Grant KESSELRING | RR #7 Box 160           | Ottumwa         | IA 52501  |
| KØIIIR | Clark PANTEL     | 1610 Hershey Ave.       | Muscatine       | IA 52761  |
| KØINR  | Tom TAYLOR       | RR #1                   | Shell Rock      | IA 50670  |
| WØIZ   | Dale REPP        | 1618 Texas Ave. NE      | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| NØJCM  | John MAYER       | 500 37th Ave. N         | Clinton         | IA 52732  |
| KØJGH  | Glen KESSELRING  | RR #7 Box 160           | Ottumwa         | IA 52501  |
| NNØL   | Ron BORKGREN     | 1106 E 2nd Street       | Anamosa         | IA 52205  |
| ABØM   | vern LANG        | 110 E 2nd Street        | Muscatine       | IA 52761  |
| WEØM   | Tom GORDON       | 6904 Brentwood Drive NE | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| WØMJN  | Joe FINKSTEIN    | 2210 Empire Street      | Marion          | IA 52302  |
| NKØN   | Orville DUECKER  | 226 Southcrest          | Waterloo        | IA 52702  |
| WØNB   | Jim LIVENGOOD    | RR #1 Ferre's Lane      | Burlington      | IA 52601  |
| W4NIM  | Bob HILL         | 2037 SW 61st Ave.       | Miami           | FL 33155  |
| NCØO   | Tom HISE         | P.O. Box 104            | Shellsburg      | IA 52332  |
| N9OK   | Al BROENDEL      | 2712 38th Street        | Rock Island     | IL 61201  |
| NUØP   | Steve WHITE      | 5820 Sanden Rd NE       | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52401  |
| WØPPF  | George CARSNER   | 411 Terrace Road        | Iowa City       | IA 52245  |
| KCØQ   | Jeff RUSSELL     | 2125 Linmar Drive NE    | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| WWØQ   | Rich BINGHAM     | 707 12th Ave.           | Coralville      | IA 52241  |
| KKØR   | Bob TILLMAN      | P.O. Box 1              | Eldora          | IA 50627  |
| N4RR   | Roger HOFFMAN    | 17215 Timber Drive      | Sterling        | ILL 61081 |
| KDØRT  | Brad FARELL      | 1401 Greenwood Drive    | Ottumwa         | IA 52501  |
| KØRW   | John LENAHAN     | 923 N 9th Street        | Burlington      | IA 52601  |
| NØSM   | Steve MILLER     | Route 6 Box 180         | Ottumwa         | IA 52501  |
| WØSML  | Doug BYAL        | 3712 Tanager Drive NE   | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| WØSR   | Jim SPENCER      | 703 Eclipse Lane        | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| KKØU   | Paul FEEDERSEN   | 1106 S. Leebrick        | Clinton         | IA 52732  |
| WEØU   | George GRUENTHER | 310 S. Wilson Street    | Burlington      | IA 52601  |
| WRØU   | Scott AUGSBURGER | 3109 Terry Dr. SE       | Mt. Pleasant    | IA 52641  |
| WØUZ   | John NELSON      | 10211 Hall Road NE      | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52403  |
| NYØV   | Tom VINSON       | 1446 Council Street NE  | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| KØVM   | Al GROFF         | 2027 Carter Ave.        | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52402  |
| KØVZR  | Tom WHITE        | 9786 Blairs Ferry Road  | Jesup           | IA 50648  |
| WØWP   | Tom LINDGREN     | 905 LeRoy               | Cedar Rapids    | IA 52401  |
| KEØY   | Tom KRAMER       |                         | Muscatine       | IA 52761  |

|        |                  |                         |               |    |       |
|--------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----|-------|
| KF0Z   | Jan CLUTE        | 320 College Blvd.       | Mount Vernon  | IA | 52314 |
| WB0ZKG | Chuck DENNIS     | 400 E. Vine             | Toledo        | IA | 52342 |
| WB8ZRL | Tom VAVRA        | 682 Palisades Access Rd | Ely           | IA | 52227 |
| NM0F   | Wayne KINNARD    | 219 Park Lane           | East Dubuque  | IL | 61025 |
| KC0GM  | Carol COOPER     | 912 W 16th Street       | Cedar Falls   | IA | 50613 |
| K8OM   | Joe HUNGATE      | 700 33rd Ave,           | Marion        | IA | 52302 |
| KE0MO  | Tom REDLINGER    | RR #1 Box 146           | Keota         | IA | 52248 |
| WA3TIH | John A. SIMANDER | p.O. Box 763            | Muscatine     | IA | 52761 |
| KA0CNN | Thomas J. KUENY  | 2025 Cardinal Lane NE   | North Liberty | IA | 52317 |
| K0DAS  | Rod J. BLOCKSOME | 690 Eastview Drive      | Robins        | IA | 52328 |
| N0NQA  | Scott W. DUECKER | RR #1 Box 202           | Lisbon        | IA | 52253 |
| AA0GG  | Frank H. WEIGELT | 4055 Stewart Road NE    | Iowa City     | IA | 52240 |
| KB0CFD | Lloyd THORNBURG  | RR #1 Box 28            | Packwood      | IA | 52580 |
| KU0Y   | James SEREDA     | 915 Hayes Street        | Burlington    | IA | 52601 |
| G3WJN  | Richard BENNETT  | 1906 Valley Vista Drive | Bettendorf    | IA | 52722 |

#### HIGH CLASS WE AINT, BUT.....

Remember the article in the last EIDXer about the QCWA Radio Collection on exhibit at the Western Heritage Museum in Omaha, Nebraska?? Well, look on page 13 of the April, 1993 QST for more information and some photos. Remember, you saw it first in the EIDXer !!!

#### DEATH PLOT ??

An Arizona amateur has been credited with helping expose an apparent plot by two teenagers to poison a teacher and a classmate.

Wayne Spaulding, KB7JYG, of Mesa, Arizona, east of Phoenix, overheard a cordless telephone conversation on the 46 MHz band on the evening of March 10, in which poisoning was mentioned. Spaulding taped the conversation and the next day called the police.

Police played the tape for the Mesa High School track coach, Gary Butler, who identified the two voices on the tape as those of students in his home room, one a 16 year old, the other 17 years old. Butler was apparently one of the youth's apparent target, as was a 15-year-old girl.

Police have booked both teenagers on suspicion to commit murder. Police said one of the youths had a "sizable amount" of poisonous drain cleaner with him at the time of his arrest, according to "The Arizona Republic".

Police told the newspaper that eavesdropping on cordless telephones is not illegal but implied that the reception was made on a "ham radio", when in fact Spaulding was listening to a ordinary consumer scanner radio.

The two youths are scheduled for hearings in early April to determine whether they should be tried as adults on the conspiracy charges.

Wayne Spaulding has been a licensed amateur for about two and a half years and his primary interests are on the UHF amateur bands. He and his wife Cheri, both hold Technician class licenses. Cheri is N7PHR.

Wayne Spaulding, coincidentally, works for the Mesa school system, designing and building electronic equipment to enable disabled students to use computers.

## PacketCluster Notes

Some thoughts about TNC parameter settings: The following assumes that the TNC parameter AX25L2V2 is set ON to use Version 2.0. Version 2.0 has some advantages that everyone should take advantage of. Initially version 2.0 had some problems, but those have long since been fixed.

The FRACK value defines the number of seconds to wait after a transmission before trying to resend (if an acknowledgement has not been received). A value in the range of 6 or 7 seconds is good.

The TXDELAY value tells the TNC how long to pause after keydown before starting to send the digital data. The purpose is to add an extra delay for relay switching. The cluster 220 MHz value is 35 (350 milliseconds), which allows the Midland xmtr relay and the PA relay enough time to switch in. Anything longer than what is necessary to get the relays switched and will only add to the QRM on the frequency.

The CHECK parameter defines the amount of time the TNC will sit idle before it polls the other TNC to insure the connection is still there. In the Packet Cluster environment where we tend to stay connected for hours (and days) at a time, it has less need than in the 'normal' packet world. The cluster sends 2 NUL characters to each user every 11 minutes (to help those users coming in through NETROM) so there will be activity at least that often. If the CHECK parameter is set to something slightly greater than 11 minutes, then you will cut down on the channel activity and still know (within 11+ minutes) when you have been disconnected by the cluster.

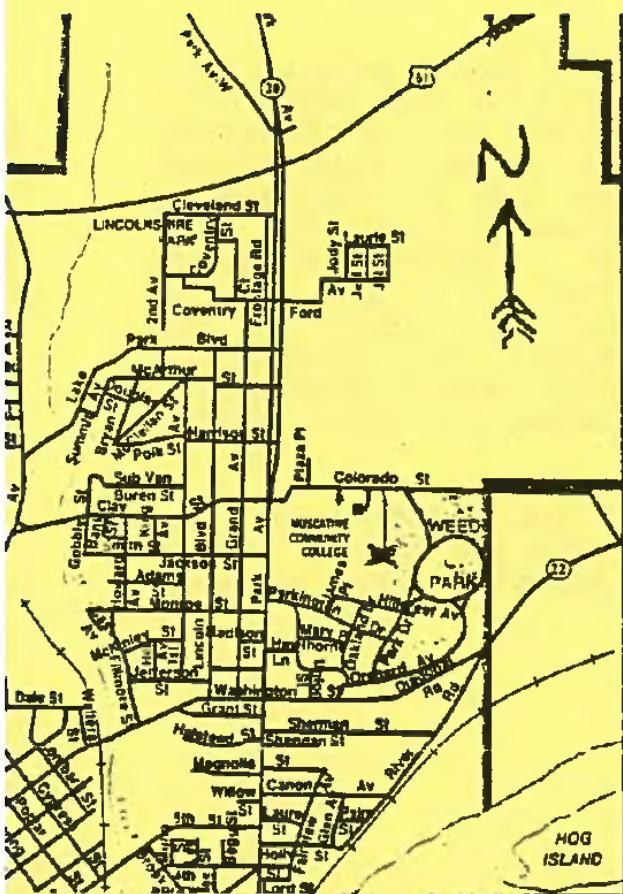
Several users have been guinea pigs for me in trying to find some parameter values to 'slow down' the responses so they spread out after an alert or poll and don't collide and end up 'retrying out'. We tried the-persistent Carrier-Sense Multiple Access (PPERSIST ON) but it seems like that applies only to responses to data packets and not to polls. What has seemed to work for WØSR is to turn PPERSIST OFF and set DWAIT high. Jim has his set up around 2 seconds. Now, all the others jump in as soon as the cluster goes key up, but Jim comes in a bit later when the freq is quiet. I end up polling the others, because they stomped all over each other. Some of you experiencing random disconnects (especially if you are close to the node) might try this. We may need to coordinate the values of DWAIT.

Getting all these parameters set so that the close-in and the far-out users can all peacefully coexist has not been a simple task. Maybe some day we will stumble on something that actually works. 73/DX de WB8ZRL

Eastern Iowa DXer  
328 Norman Dr NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Jim Spencer WØSR  
3712 Tanager Dr. NE  
Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402



## SPRING MEETING NOTICE

#### DIRECTIONS TO SPRING MEETING

The key point on the map is the intersection of Highways 38 & 61. At that point you will see a Motel 8 and Kreiger's Auto dealership on opposite corners. Proceed south (towards McDonalds) through 4 stop lights. At the 5th light turn left onto Colorado Street. After an "S" curve you will see an elementary school on your left and Muscatine Community College on your right. As you start down the hill, take the road towards the towers behind the college (look for the EIDXA sign). Follow the road all the way to the back lot. Talk in on 146.91.